

□ Backwashing for cross-flow-type microfiltration membranes

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AB Solid particles deposited on the surface of cross-flow microfiltration membranes are removed by backwashing with pressurized air, mixing with recycle stream, and introducing into a bypass passage. The backwashing stream pressure is preferably larger than that of the feed fluid stream. Thus, an enzyme suspension was periodically pumped through cross-flow microfiltration membranes (av. pore diam. .apprx.0.45 .mu.m; made of cellulose triacetate) at 0.5 kg/cm2 pressure for 5 min, and the spent membranes were then backwashed with pressurized air at .gtoreq.1 kg/cm2 for 5 s to remove deposited solid particles. The membrane service life was significantly extended.